REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes therein, bearing in mind the objection to the drawings and specification in the Official Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings and specification are respectfully requested.

Claims 43-45, 47, 49-50, and 54 were rejected as unpatentable over CLEFF 3,924,771 in view of OSBORNE 2,409,788. Claims 46, 48, 51-53, and 55-56 were rejected further in view of BLANCHARD 1,982,567. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.
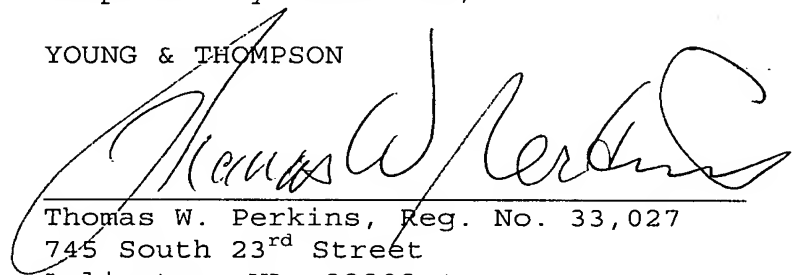
The applicant advises that the obviousness judgment expressed in the Official Action is the result of an ex post facto evaluation. That is, after having been made aware of the solution, the Official Action offers the opinion that the solution is obvious and that one skilled in the art would have found it so. However, 27 years lapsed between the granting date of CLEFF and the filing of the Italian application whose priority is claimed in the present application. If the solution claimed in the present application were obvious, as stated by the Official Action, the invention would not have taken such a long time to be conceived. The applicant believes that such a long waiting time is the best proof of the non-obviousness of the present invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are accordingly requested.

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In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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TWP/lrs

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